



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP **12¢**

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

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APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

7
DEC.

THE
VULTURE
LOOKS TOO
SURE OF HIMSELF!
HE MUST HAVE A
FOOL-PROOF PLAN
TO DEFEAT ME!
BUT--WHAT CAN
IT *BE*?

A MARVEL SUPER-SPECTACULAR:
"the **VULTURE'S
RETURN!**"



HERE IS SPIDER-MAN
AS YOU LIKE HIM...
FIGHTING! JOKING! DARING!
CHALLENGING THE MOST
DANGEROUS FOE OF ALL, IN THIS--
THE MARVEL AGE OF COMICS!



THE RETURN OF THE VULTURE

NEVER LET IT BE SAID THAT THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP DOESN'T RESPOND TO THE WISHES OF ITS READERS!

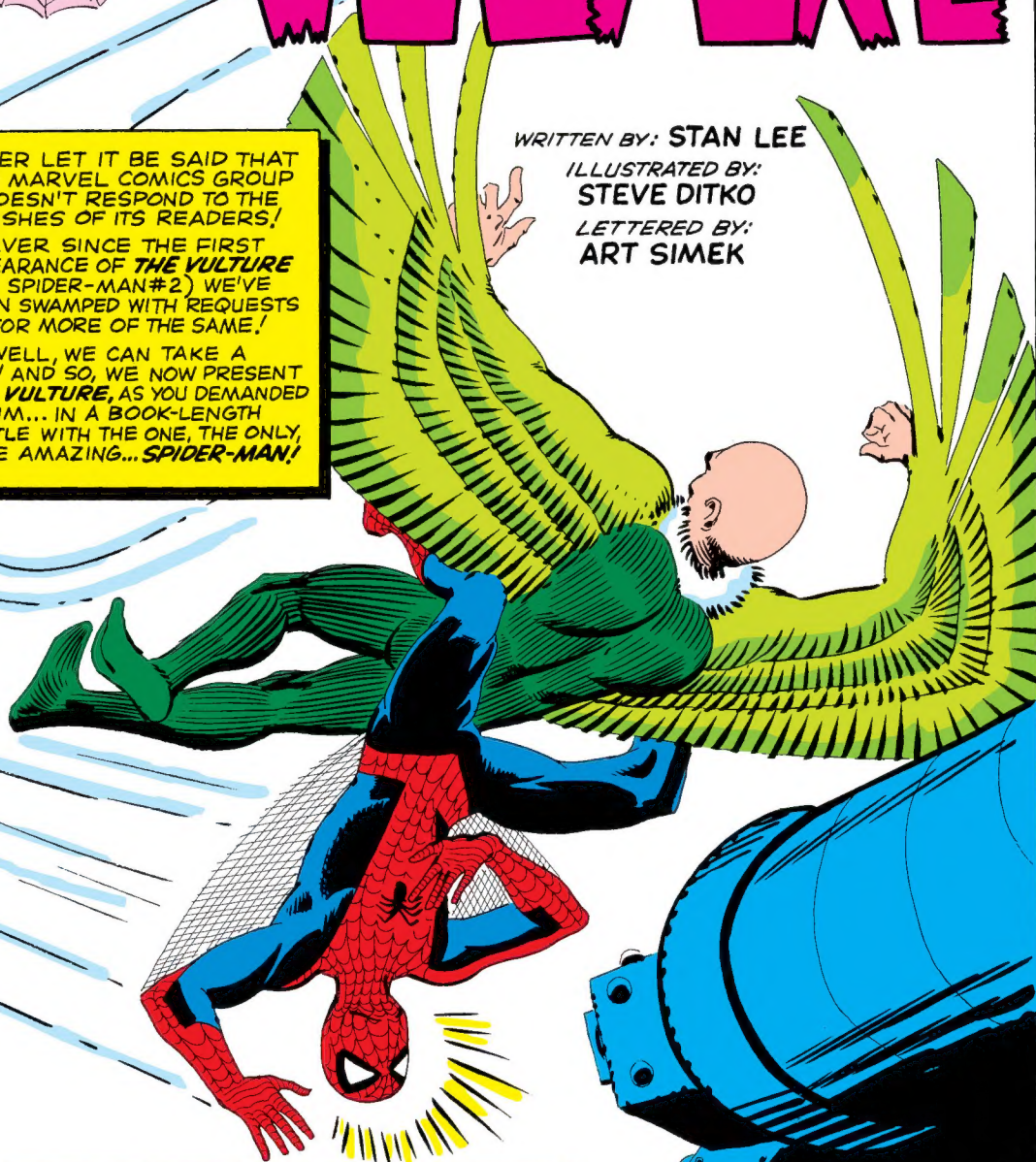
EVER SINCE THE FIRST APPEARANCE OF *THE VULTURE* (IN SPIDER-MAN #2) WE'VE BEEN SWAMPED WITH REQUESTS FOR MORE OF THE SAME!

WELL, WE CAN TAKE A HINT! AND SO, WE NOW PRESENT *THE VULTURE*, AS YOU DEMANDED HIM... IN A BOOK-LENGTH BATTLE WITH THE ONE, THE ONLY, THE AMAZING... *SPIDER-MAN!*

WRITTEN BY: STAN LEE

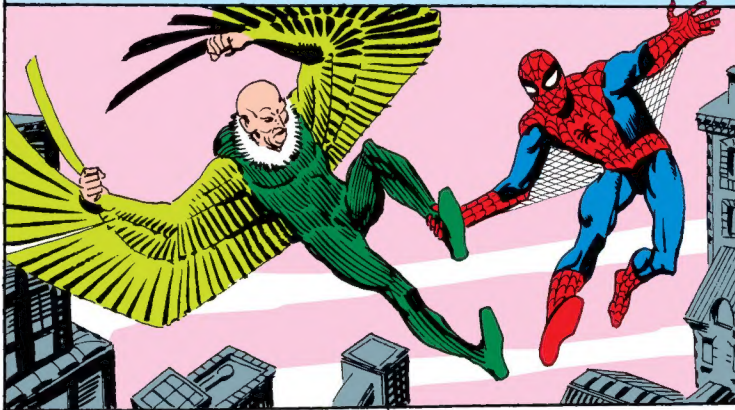
ILLUSTRATED BY:
STEVE DITKO

LETTERED BY:
ART SIMEK

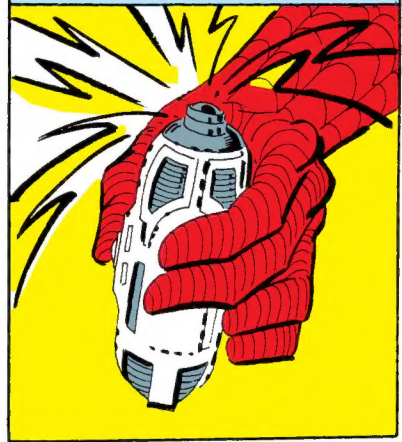


A TALE DESTINED TO RANK
AMONG THE VERY GREATEST
IN THIS...
**THE MARVEL AGE
OF COMICS!**

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO MISSED **SPIDER-MAN#2**, IT CONCERNED HIS SPECTACULAR BATTLE WITH ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS VILLAINS OF ALL TIME... THE AWESOME FLYING **VULTURE!** NO MAN KNEW THE SECRET BEHIND THE VULTURE'S ABILITY TO FLY... UNTIL SPIDER-MAN DEDUCED THAT HIS WINGS WERE OPERATED BY A UNIQUE FORM OF **MAGNETIC POWER...**



...AND SO, SPIDER-MAN CREATED A POWERFUL **ANTI-MAGNETIC INVERTER** WHICH HE USED AGAINST THE VULTURE IN THEIR FINAL BATTLE...

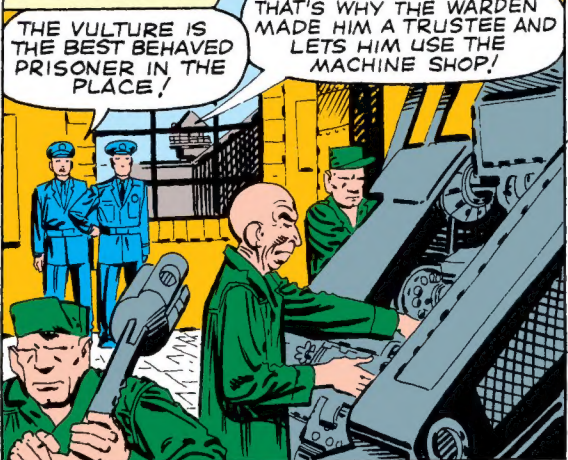


WITH HIS MAGNETIC POWER NULLIFIED, DUE TO **SPIDER-MAN'S** INVERTER, THE VULTURE WAS FORCED TO SPIRAL TO THE GROUND, INTO THE WAITING ARMS OF THE POLICE! AND SO ENDED THAT EPIC BATTLE!



THE VULTURE WILL NEVER THREATEN ANYONE AGAIN!

FOR MONTHS IT SEEMS THAT SPIDER-MAN'S PREDICTION IS CORRECT, AS THE IMPRISONED VULTURE BECOMES A MODEL INMATE OF STATE PRISON...

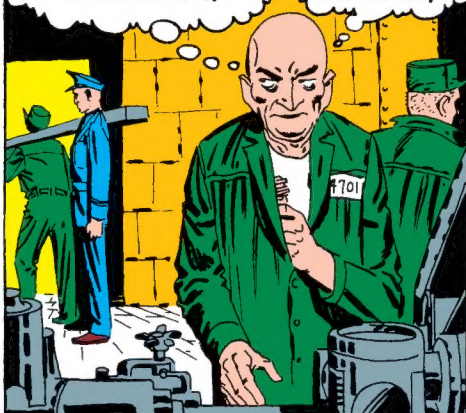


THE VULTURE IS THE BEST BEHAVED PRISONER IN THE PLACE!

THAT'S WHY THE WARDEN MADE HIM A TRUSTEE AND LETS HIM USE THE MACHINE SHOP!

THE GULLIBLE FOOLS! THEY DON'T SUSPECT THAT I'M PUTTING TOGETHER **ANOTHER** FLYING DEVICE FOR MYSELF--RIGHT UNDER THEIR NOSES!

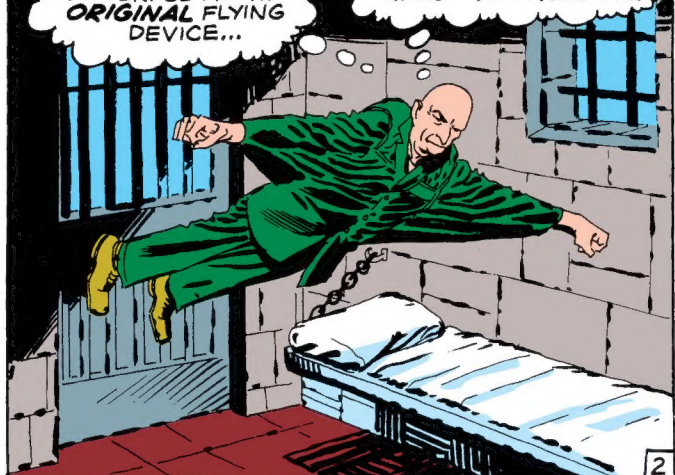
I'VE TAKEN ALL THE PARTS I NEED! TONIGHT I'LL MAKE MY FINAL TEST IN MY CELL!



AND, AFTER BED CHECK...

IT WORKS! NOT AS POWERFUL AS MY ORIGINAL FLYING DEVICE...

...BUT GOOD ENOUGH TO GET ME OVER THE WALL--**TO FREEDOM!**



THE NEXT DAY, DURING EXERCISE PERIOD IN THE PRISON COURTYARD...

FAREWELL!
IT IS TIME
FOR THE
VULTURE
TO FLY
AGAIN!

LOOK! HE
MADE HIMSELF
A NEW FLYING
GIZMO! HE'S
GLIDING OVER
THE WALL!



HOW EASY IT WAS!
BY THE TIME THE
GUARDS CAN
ORGANIZE A SEARCH
PARTY, I'LL BE
SAFELY HIDDEN,
MILES AWAY!

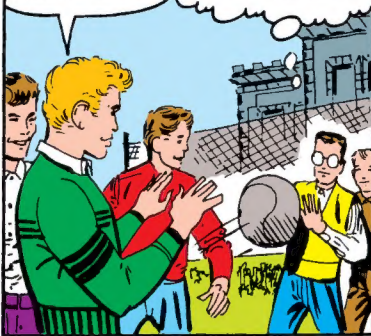
AND, WHEN NEXT I
APPEAR, I'LL HAVE A
NEW SET OF WINGS...
FAR MORE POWERFUL
THAN BEFORE!



MEANWHILE, IN THE SCHOOL YARD AT MIDTOWN HIGH, SOME VOLLEY-BALL PRACTICE IS IN PROGRESS...

HERE, BUTTER-
FINGERS! THINK
YOU CAN TOSS
THAT BIG, BAD,
HEAVY BALL
ALL THE WAY
BACK TO ME?

IF I USED MY
SPIDER-MAN
STRENGTH, IT
WOULD GO
CLEAN
THROUGH YOU,
LOUD-MOUTH!



WE INTERRUPT OUR PROGRAM TO
BRING YOU A SPECIAL BULLETIN!
THE VULTURE HAS ESCAPED
FROM STATE PRISON! ALL
CITIZENS ARE URGED TO LOCK
THEIR DOORS, AND REPORT
ANY SUSPICIOUS...

THE VULTURE--
ESCAPED!!



SPIDER-MAN IS THE ONE
BEST SUITED TO CATCH HIM!
I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF
HERE--FAST!

I--I DON'T
FEEL VERY
WELL! I'LL
ASK COACH
SMITH IF I
MAY BE
EXCUSED!

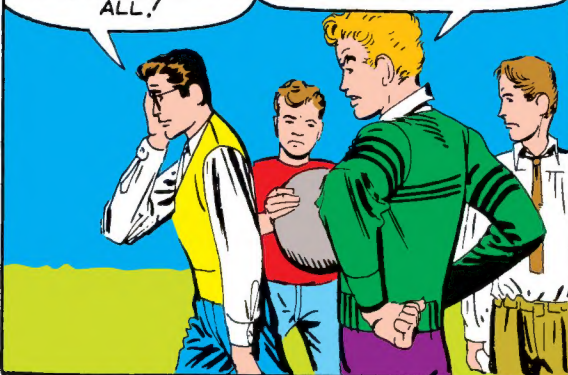
WE MIGHT HAVE
KNOWN! A FAST
GAME OF VOLLEY-
BALL IS TOO
MUCH FOR POOR
PUNY PARKER!



JUST MY CRUMMY LUCK! EVERY TIME I HAVE TO
TAKE OFF TO CHANGE TO SPIDER-MAN, EVERY-
ONE THINKS I'M CHICKENING OUT BECAUSE OF
WEAKNESS!

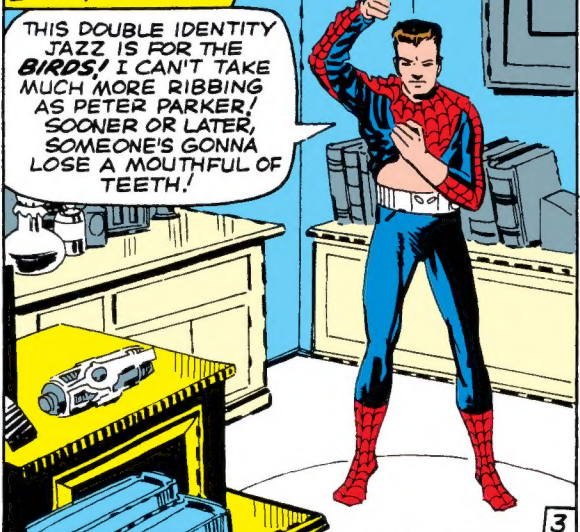
IT'S NOT TOO MUCH
FOR ME, FLASH! I
JUST HAVE A--EH,
HEADACHE, THAT'S
ALL!

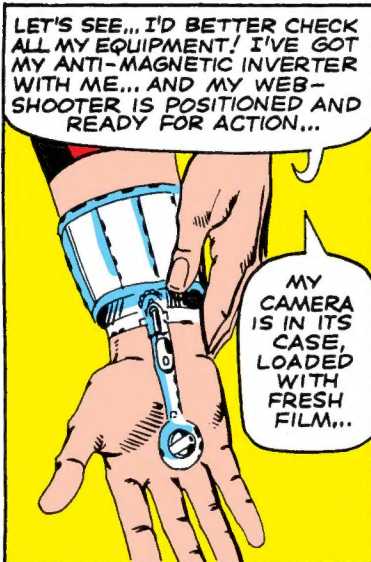
STRANGE HOW YOU ALWAYS
GET THOSE "HEADACHES"
WHENEVER SOMETHING
EXCITING IS GOING ON!



LATER, AT HOME...

THIS DOUBLE IDENTITY
JAZZ IS FOR THE
BIRDS! I CAN'T TAKE
MUCH MORE RIBBING!
AS PETER PARKER!
SOONER OR LATER,
SOMEONE'S GONNA
LOSE A MOUTHFUL OF
TEETH!



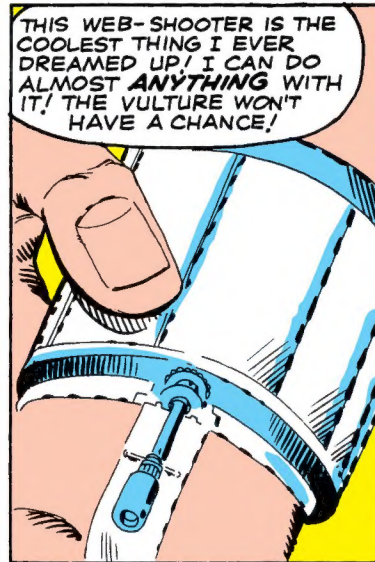


LET'S SEE... I'D BETTER CHECK ALL MY EQUIPMENT! I'VE GOT MY ANTI-MAGNETIC INVERTER WITH ME... AND MY WEB-SHOOTER IS POSITIONED AND READY FOR ACTION...

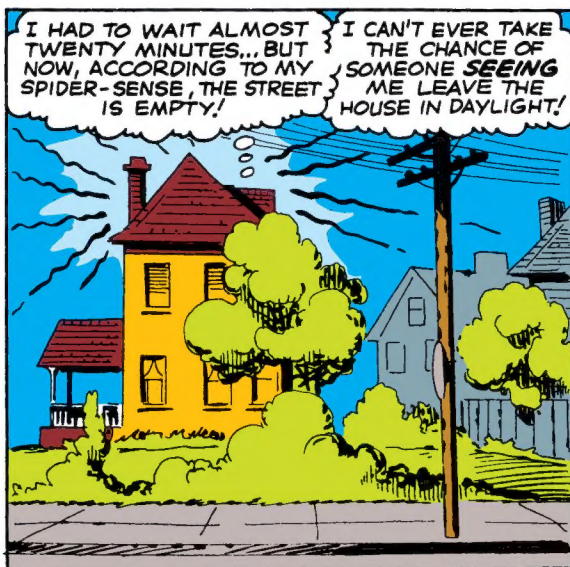
MY CAMERA IS IN ITS CASE, LOADED WITH FRESH FILM...



... I REFILED MY WEB-FLUID CAPSULE--AND ALL DEVICES CHECK OUT... A-O-KAY!

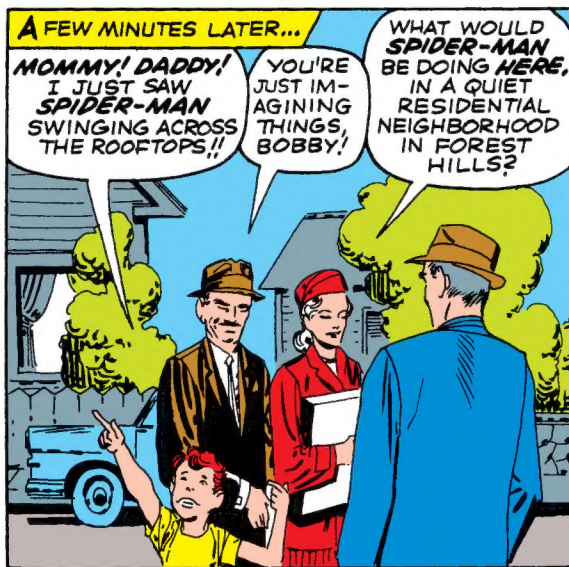


THIS WEB-SHOOTER IS THE COOLEST THING I EVER DREAMED UP! I CAN DO ALMOST **ANYTHING** WITH IT! THE VULTURE WON'T HAVE A CHANCE!



I HAD TO WAIT ALMOST TWENTY MINUTES... BUT NOW, ACCORDING TO MY SPIDER-SENSE, THE STREET IS EMPTY!

I CAN'T EVER TAKE THE CHANCE OF SOMEONE **SEEING** ME LEAVE THE HOUSE IN DAYLIGHT!

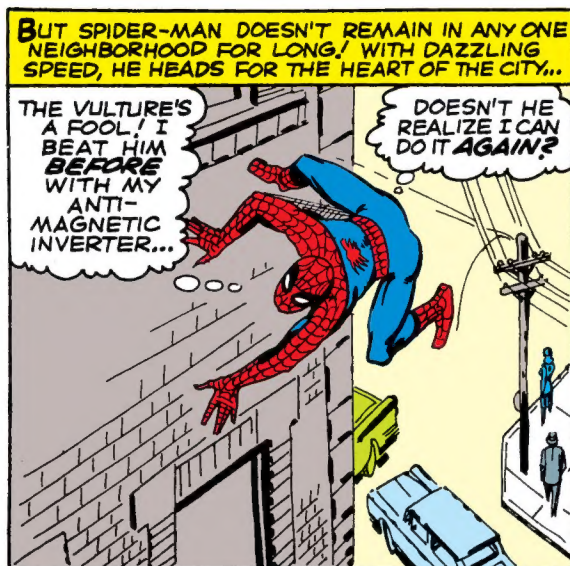


A FEW MINUTES LATER...

MOMMY! DADDY! I JUST SAW **SPIDER-MAN** SWINGING ACROSS THE ROOFTOPS!!

YOU'RE JUST IMAGINING THINGS, BOBBY!

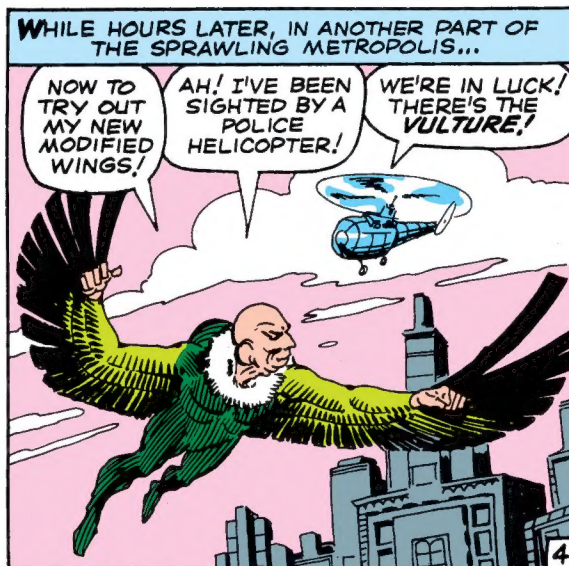
WHAT WOULD **SPIDER-MAN** BE DOING **HERE**, IN A QUIET RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD IN FOREST HILLS?



BUT SPIDER-MAN DOESN'T REMAIN IN ANY ONE NEIGHBORHOOD FOR LONG! WITH DAZZLING SPEED, HE HEADS FOR THE HEART OF THE CITY...

THE VULTURE'S A FOOL! I BEAT HIM **BEFORE** WITH MY ANTI-MAGNETIC INVERTER...

DOESN'T HE REALIZE I CAN DO IT **AGAIN?**

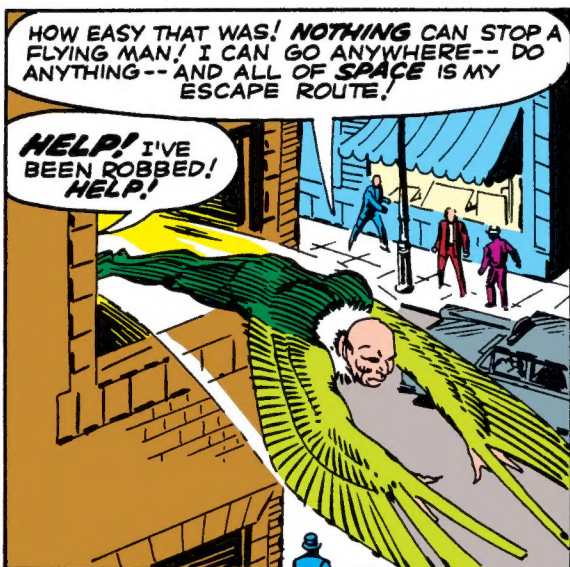
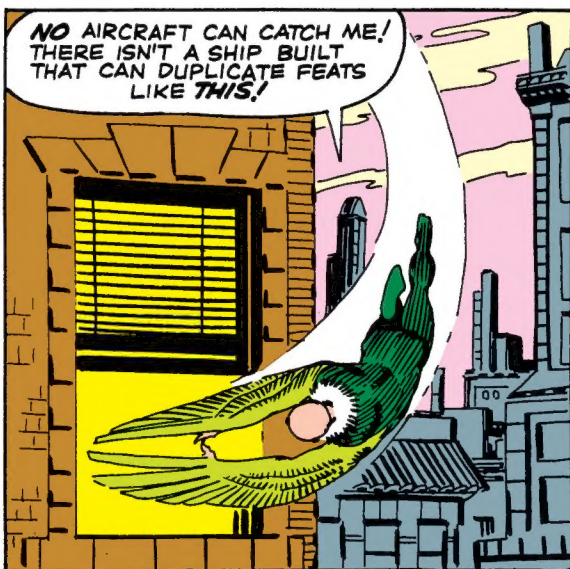
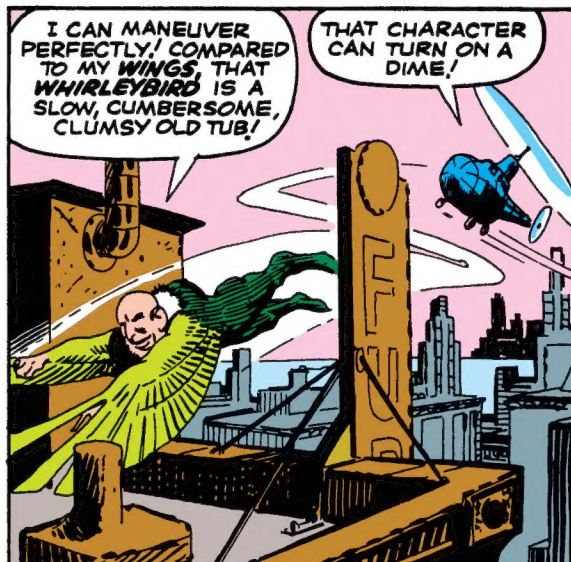
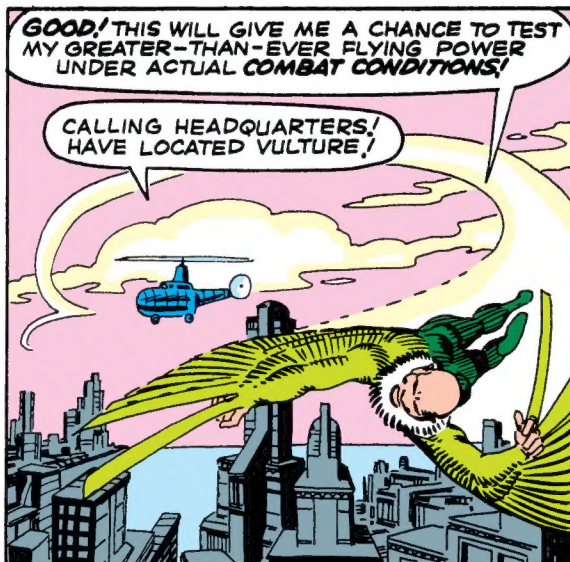


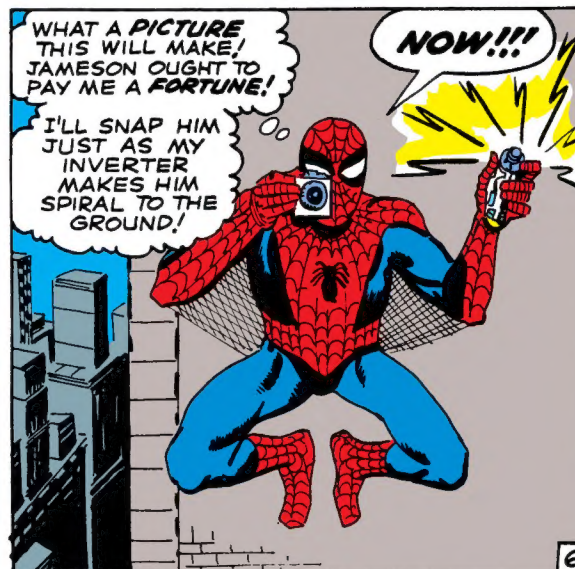
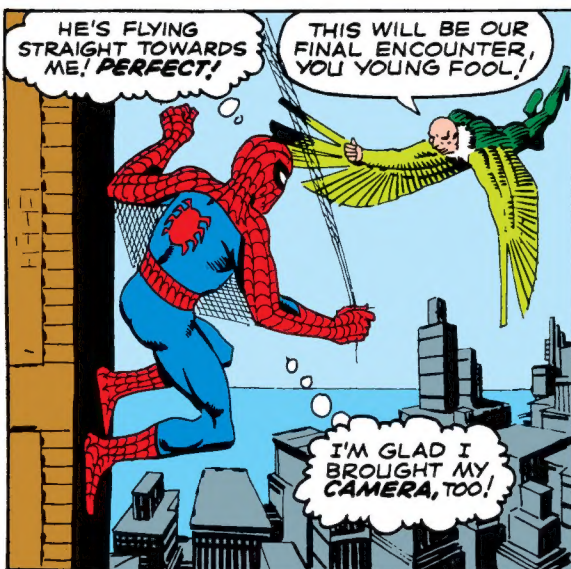
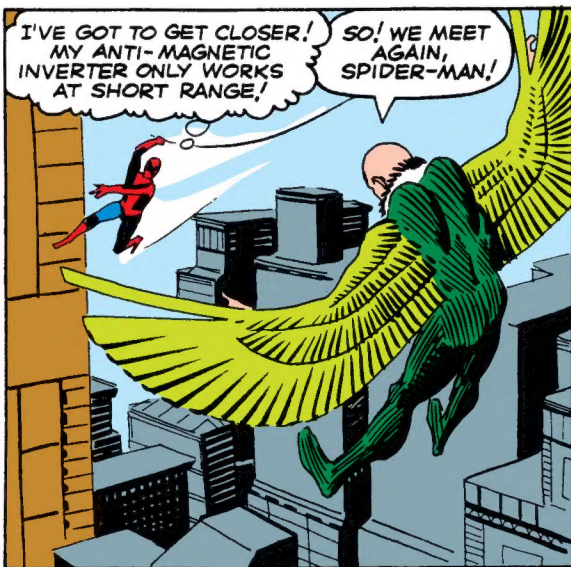
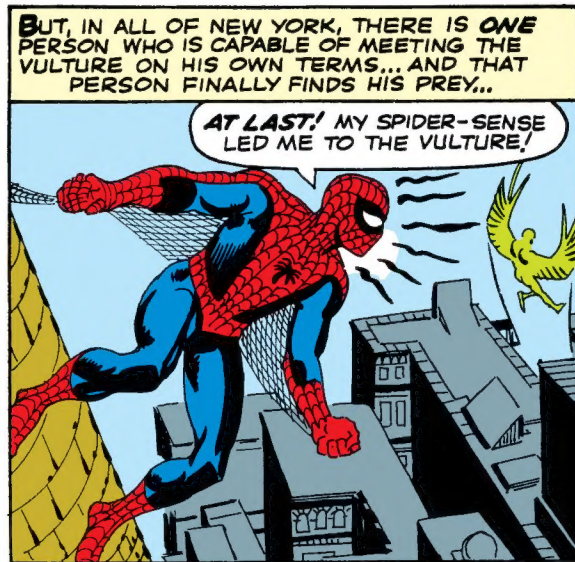
WHILE HOURS LATER, IN ANOTHER PART OF THE SPRAWLING METROPOLIS...

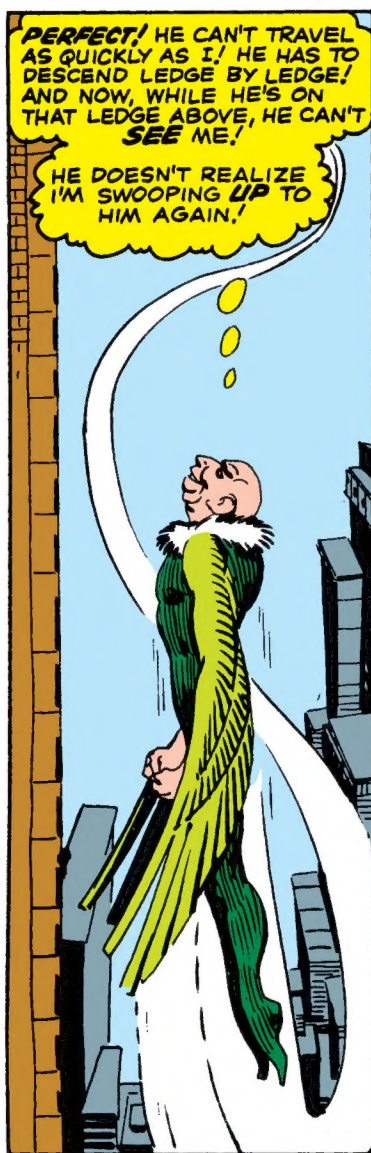
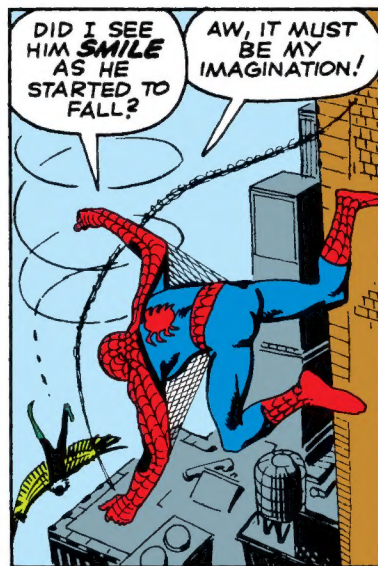
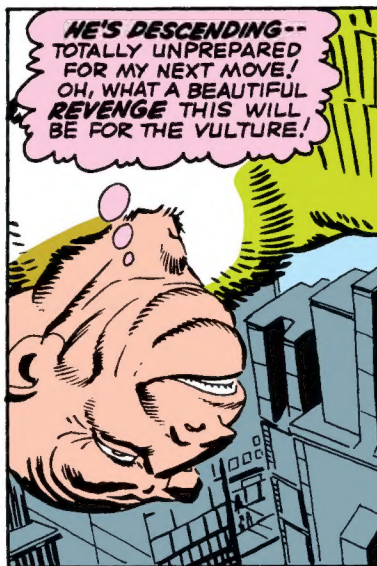
NOW TO TRY OUT MY NEW MODIFIED WINGS!

AH! I'VE BEEN SIGHTED BY A POLICE HELICOPTER!

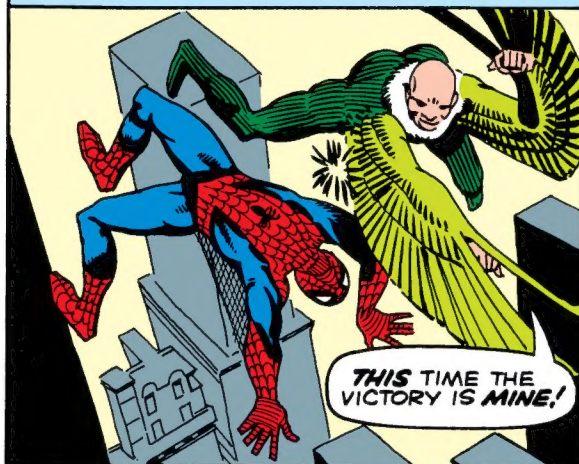
WE'RE IN LUCK! THERE'S THE **VULTURE!**







MOMENTARILY STUNNED BY THE FORCE AND TOTAL UNEXPECTEDNESS OF THE VULTURE'S ATTACK, SPIDER-MAN IS HELPLESS BEFORE HIS POWERFUL FOE'S CONTINUED ONSLAUGHT!



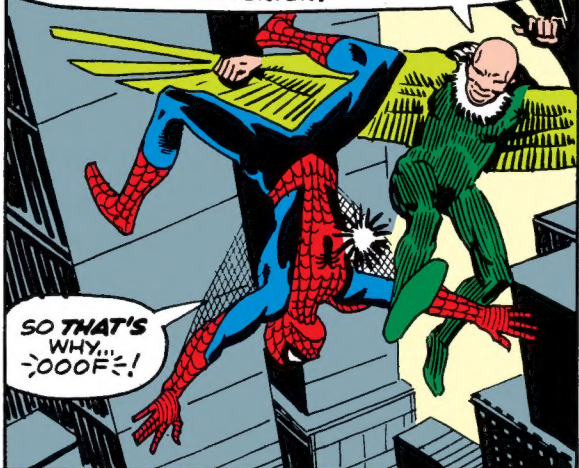
LOOK! UP THERE... ABOVE THE ROOFTOPS! IT'S THE VULTURE... BATTLING WITH SPIDER-MAN!

THANK HEAVEN SPIDER-MAN FOUND HIM! HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DEFEAT THE VULTURE SINGLE-HANDED!

GUESS AGAIN, LADY! THE VULTURE IS CLOBBERING HIM!

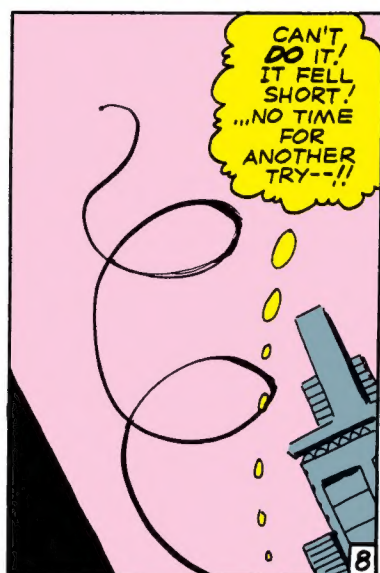
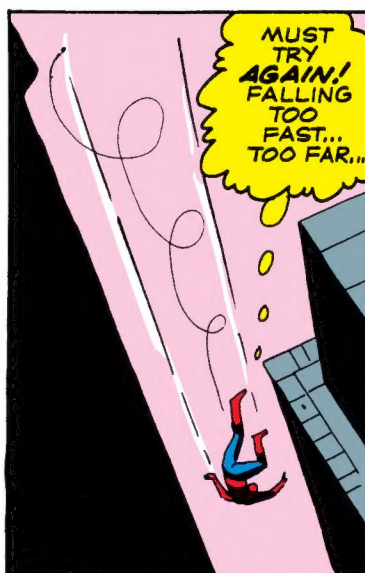
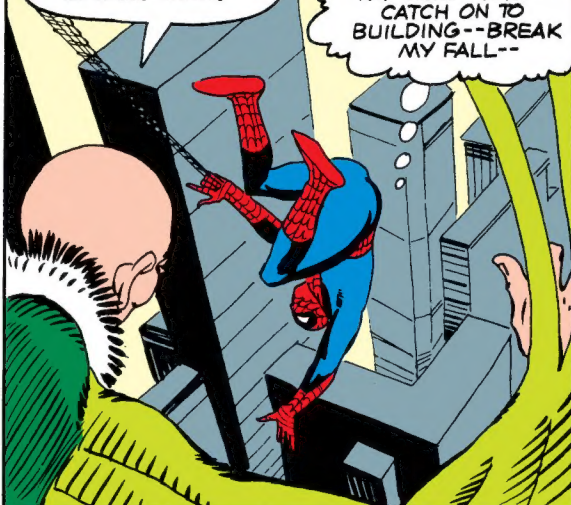


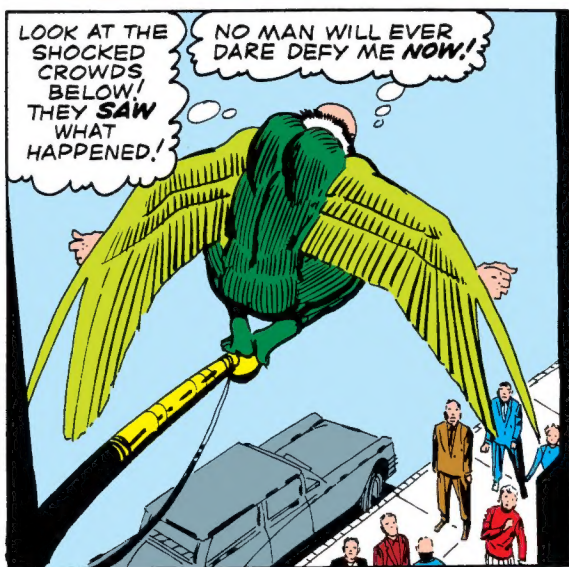
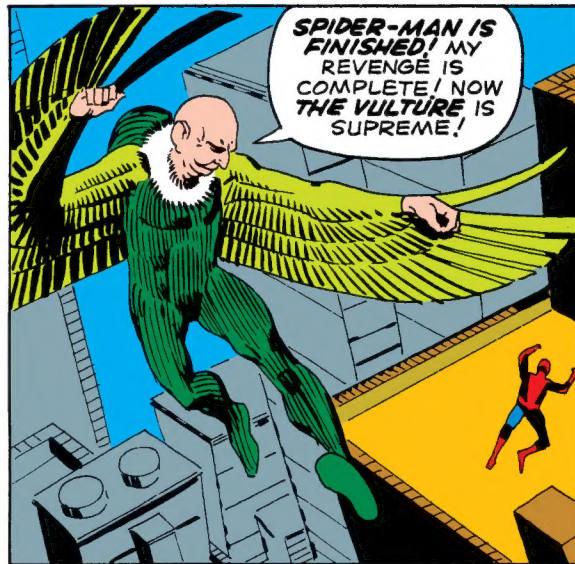
YOU NEVER SUSPECTED I HAD IMPROVED MY WINGS SO THAT THEY COULD CHANGE MAGNETIC POLES INSTANTLY, NULLIFYING YOUR USELESS INVERTER!



HAPPY LANDINGS, SPIDER-MAN!

GOT TO SHOOT MY MY WEB--FAST-- CATCH ON TO BUILDING--BREAK MY FALL--



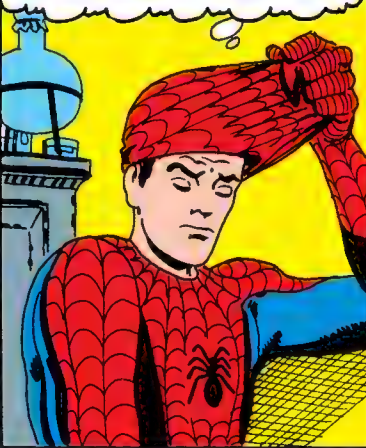


WEARILY, CAUTIOUSLY, SPIDER-MAN REACHES HIS HOME, AND THEN QUIETLY, ENTERS THRU A REAR WINDOW...

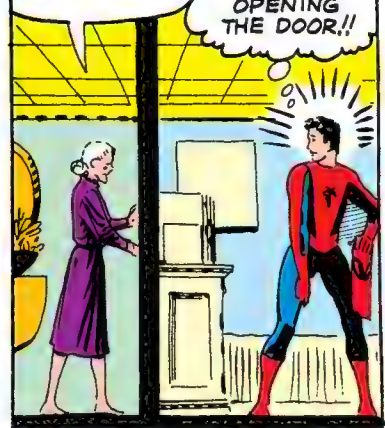
DON'T THINK I BROKE ANY BONES... THE ARM IS PROBABLY JUST SPRAINED!



BUT **BOY**, DOES IT EVER **HURT**!! WON'T BE ABLE TO USE IT FOR DAYS! WELL, BETTER CHANGE BACK TO PETER PARKER NOW WHILE I STILL CAN...

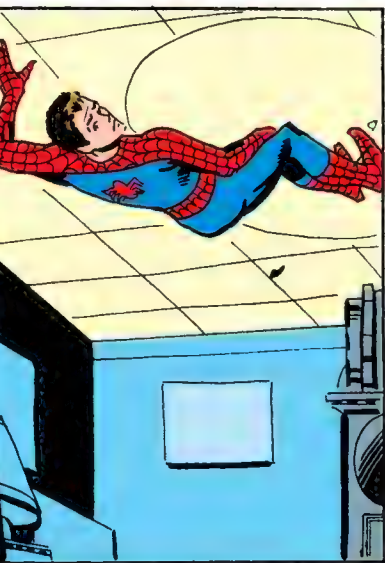
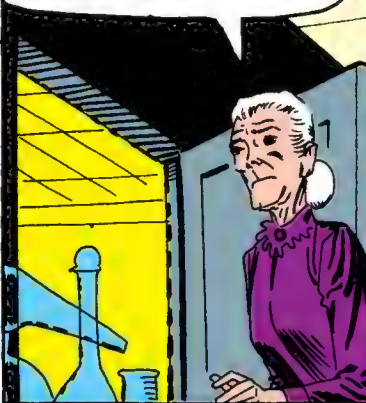


BUT, JUST THEN... **AUNT MAY!** CAN'T LET HER FIND ME HERE LIKE THIS! SHE'S OPENING THE DOOR!!

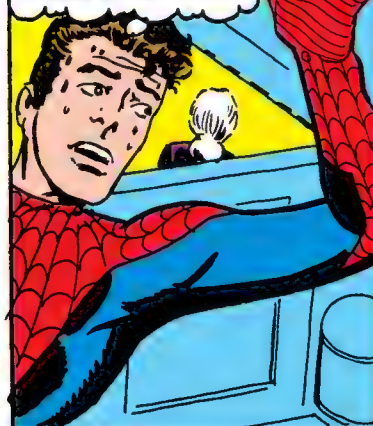


PETER, DEAR--? OH, FOR GOODNESS SAKE! I MUST HAVE BEEN HEARING THINGS!

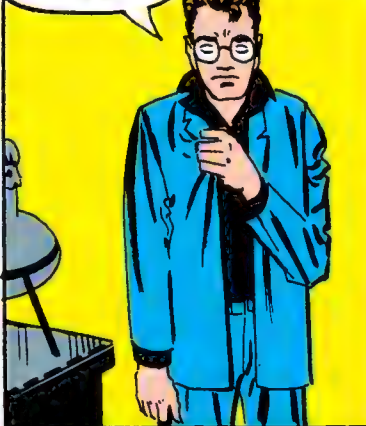
ALTHOUGH, IT'S **STRANGE** THAT HE'S NOT HERE YET! HE **KNOWS** HOW I WORRY WHEN HE COMES HOME LATE! HE'S SUCH A **FRAGILE** BOY...NOT A ROUGHNECK LIKE THAT FLASH THOMPSON!



WHEW-- THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE! IF AUNT MAY EVER SUSPECTED THE TRUTH ABOUT FRAGILE ME-- **WOW!**



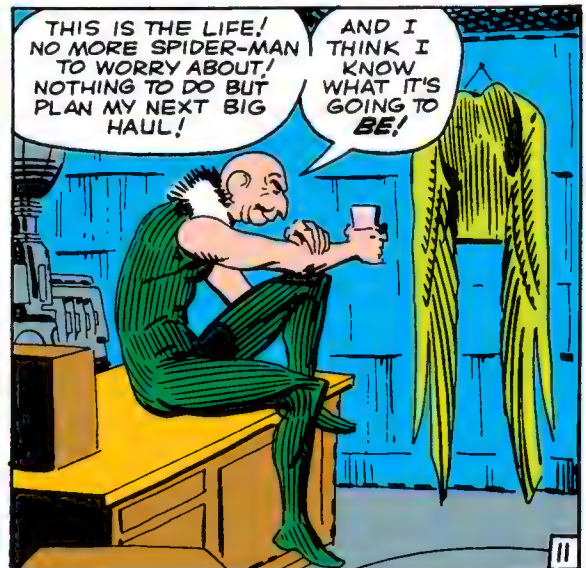
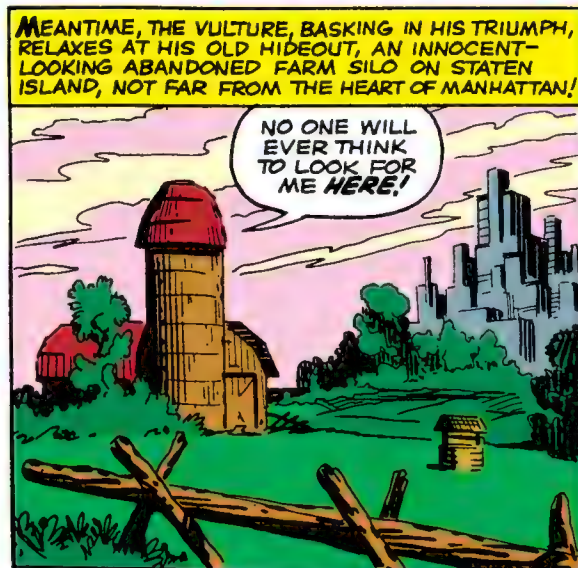
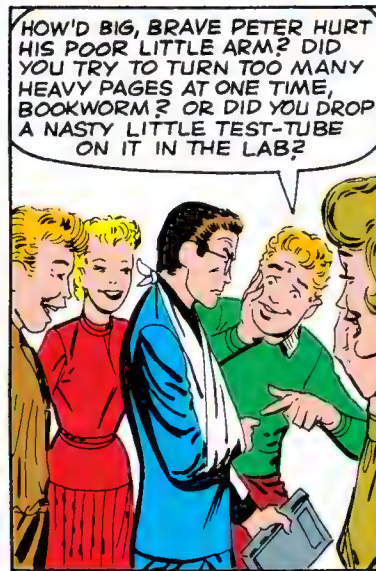
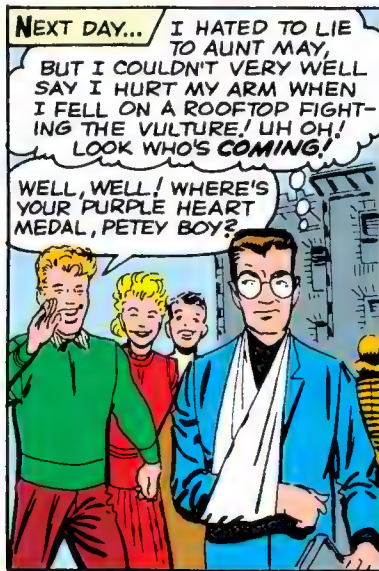
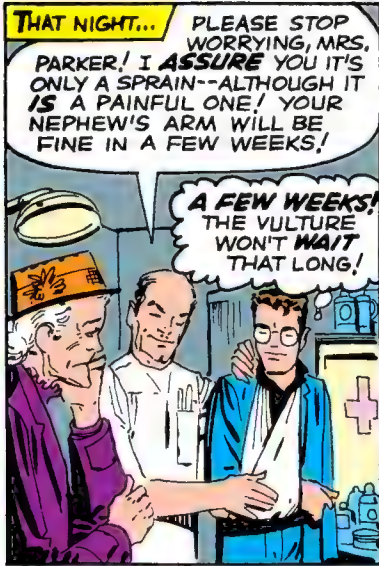
BOY! IT TOOK ALMOST A HALF HOUR TO CHANGE DUDS! I'M SURE NOT GONNA BREAK ANY SPEED RECORDS WITH THIS ARM OF MINE!



NOW TO SLIP OUT AND COME IN THE FRONT DOOR AS PETER PARKER! HOPE AUNT MAY WON'T MAKE A FEDERAL CASE OUT OF MY SPRAINED ARM!

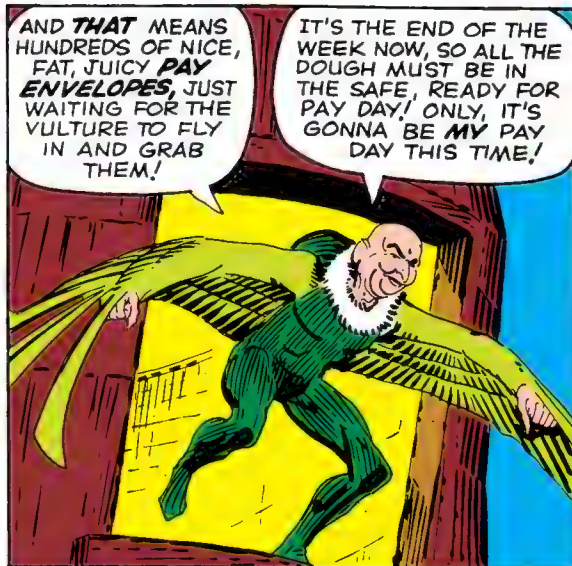


I'VE GOT TO THINK UP A GOOD EXCUSE FOR IT!



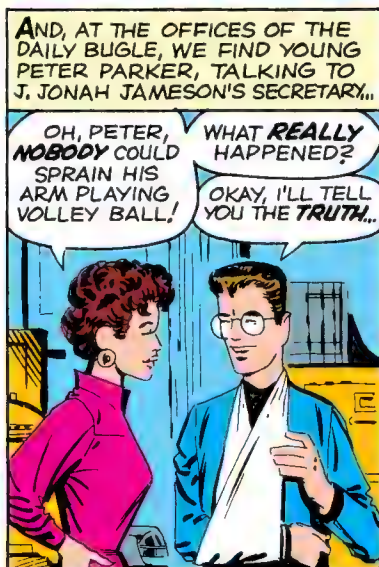


ONE OF THE BIGGEST PAYROLLS IN NEW YORK IS AT THE OFFICE OF **J. JONAH JAMESON!** HE PUBLISHES THE "DAILY BUGLE" AND "NOW" MAGAZINE! HE MUST EMPLOY **HUNDREDS** OF WORKERS!



AND **THAT** MEANS HUNDREDS OF NICE, FAT, JUICY **PAY ENVELOPES**, JUST WAITING FOR THE VULTURE TO FLY IN AND GRAB THEM!

IT'S THE END OF THE WEEK NOW, SO ALL THE DOUGH MUST BE IN THE SAFE, READY FOR PAY DAY! ONLY, IT'S GONNA BE **MY** PAY DAY THIS TIME!



AND, AT THE OFFICES OF THE DAILY BUGLE, WE FIND YOUNG PETER PARKER, TALKING TO J. JONAH JAMESON'S SECRETARY...

OH, PETER, **NOBODY** COULD SPRAIN HIS ARM PLAYING VOLLEY BALL!

WHAT **REALLY** HAPPENED?
OKAY, I'LL TELL YOU THE **TRUTH**...



IT HAPPENED IN THE AIR, WHILE I WAS FIGHTING THE VULTURE FOR DEAR LIFE!

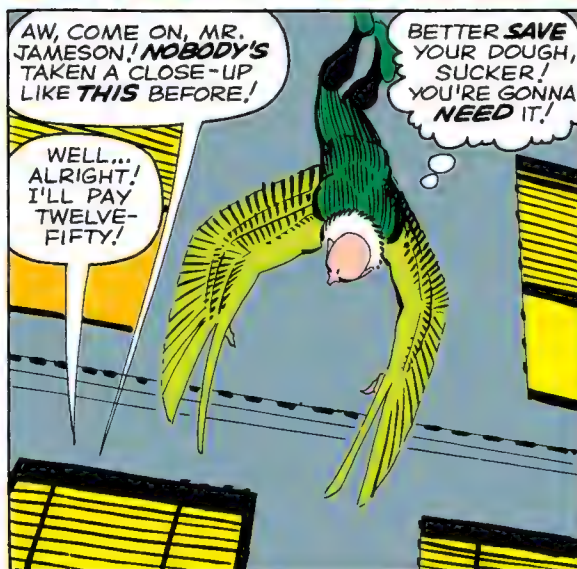
OH, WELL! ASK A SILLY QUESTION

SO LET'S STICK TO THE VOLLEY BALL STORY! OKAY?

MISS BRANT! SEND PARKER IN NOW!



I'LL **ADMIT** THAT'S A FINE PICTURE OF THE VULTURE, PARKER, BUT I CAN'T PAY MORE THAN TEN DOLLARS FOR IT! AFTER ALL, HE'S BEEN SEEN ALL OVER TOWN! **LOTS** OF PEOPLE HAVE SNAPPED HIM! I WANT SOMETHING **DIFFERENT!**



AW, COME ON, MR. JAMESON, **NOBODY'S** TAKEN A CLOSE-UP LIKE **THIS** BEFORE!

WELL... ALRIGHT! I'LL PAY TWELVE-FIFTY!

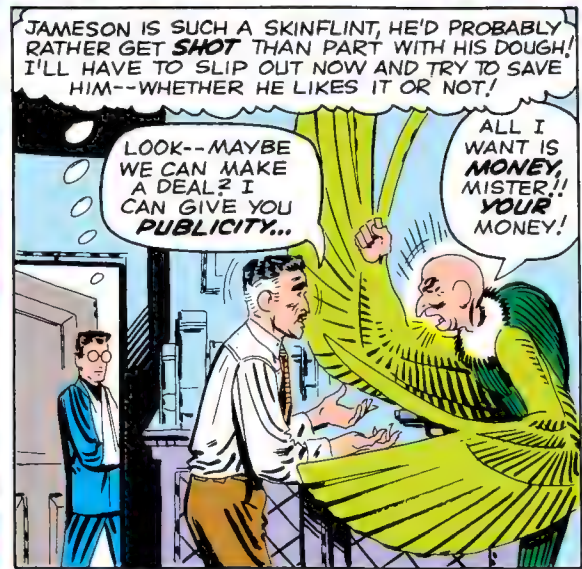
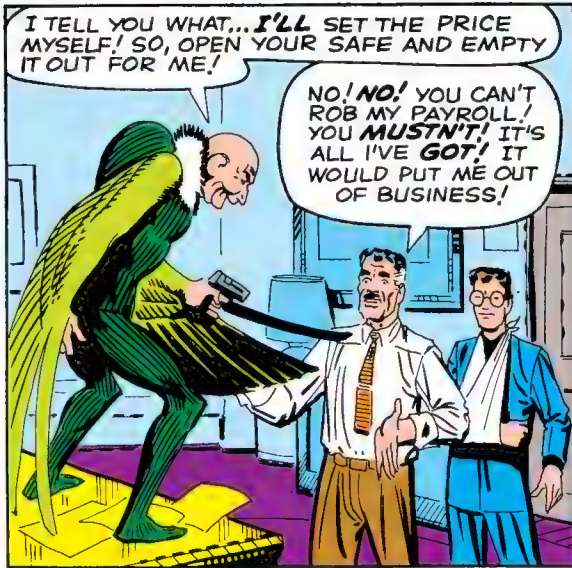
BETTER **SAVE** YOUR DOUGH, SUCKER! YOU'RE GONNA **NEED** IT!

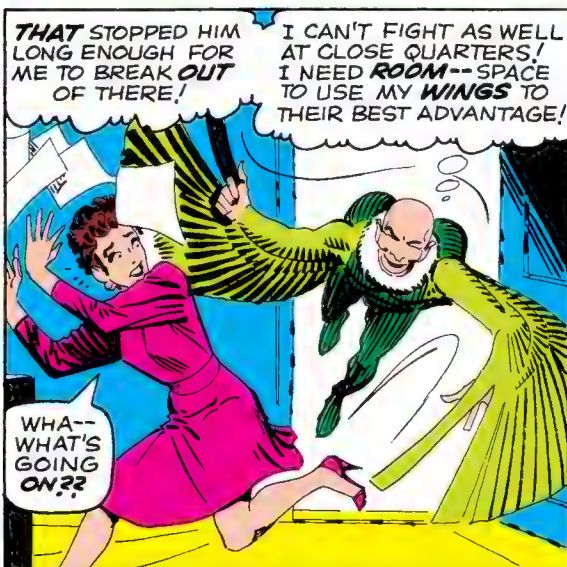
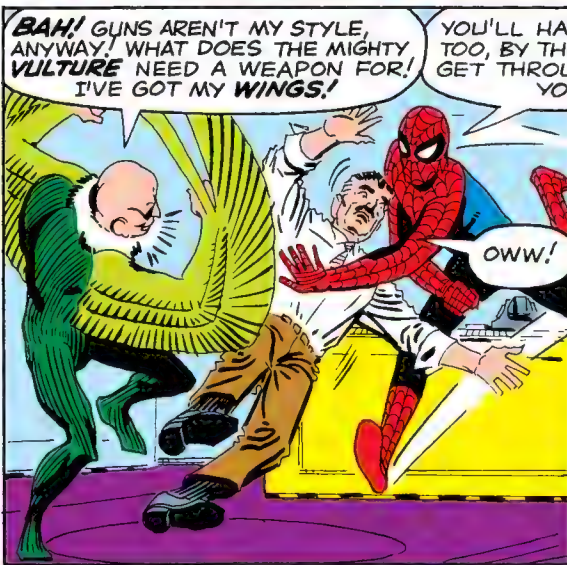
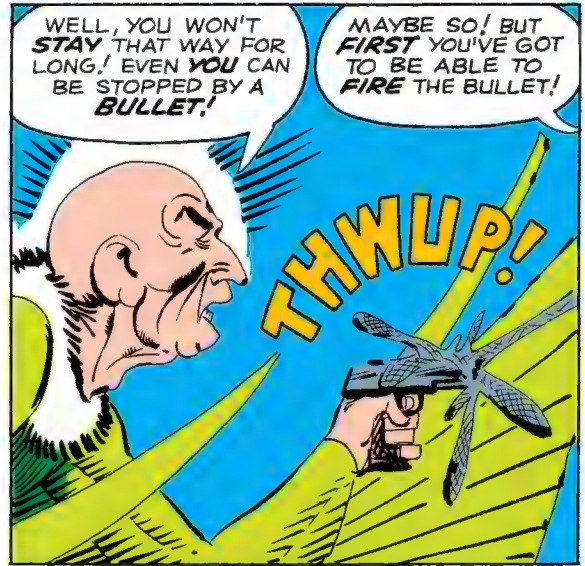
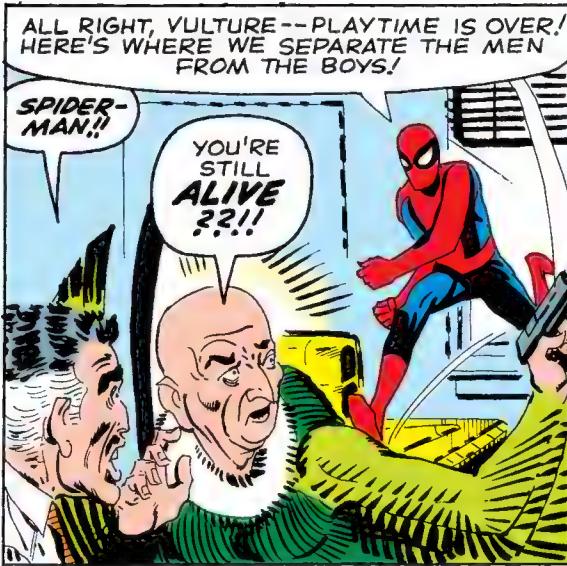


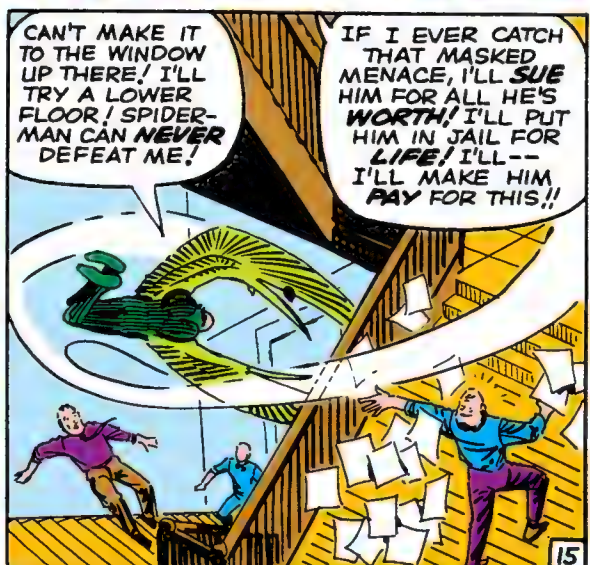
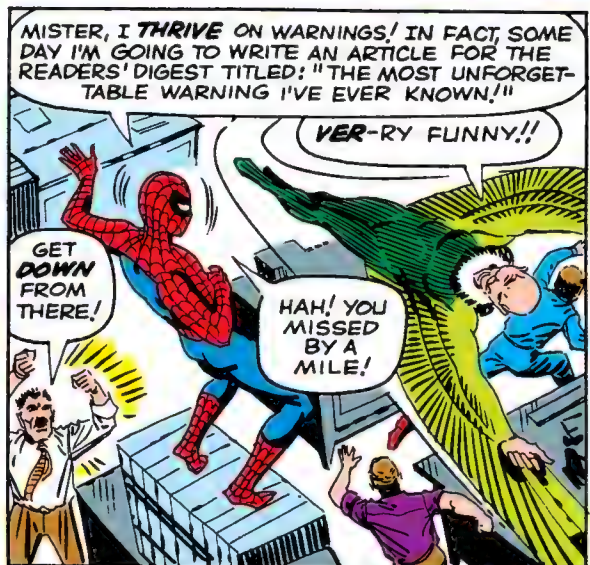
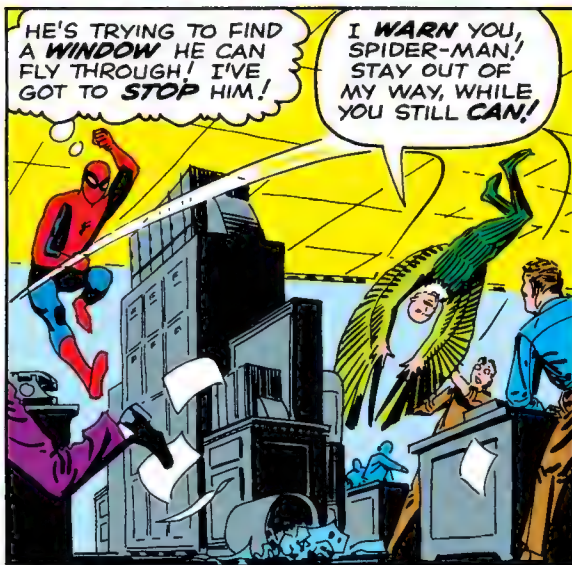
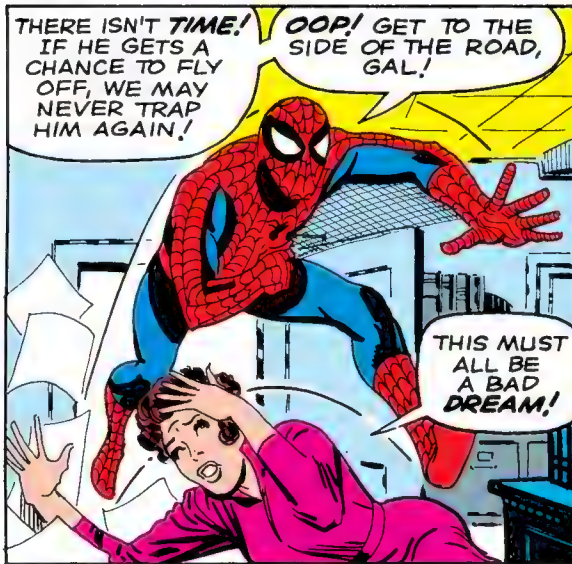
GREETINGS, JAMESON! IF YOU'LL PAY FOR A MERE **PHOTO** OF ME, WHAT WILL YOU GIVE FOR THE VULTURE IN THE **FLESH??!**

HOLY COW! IT'S HIM!

THE **VULTURE!!**





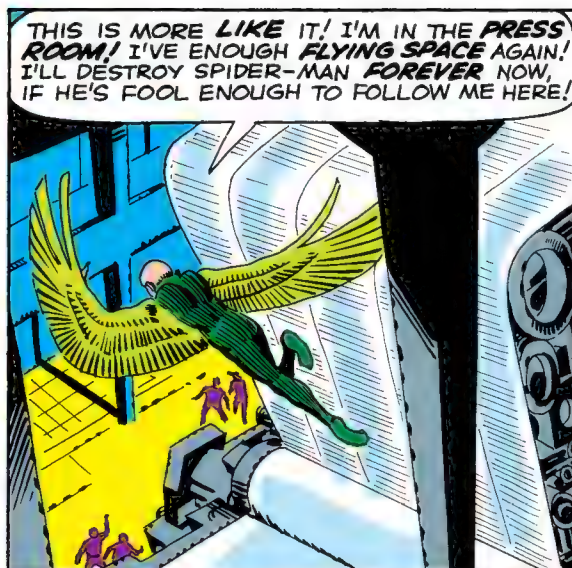




THIS ISN'T EXACTLY FLYING... BUT IT'LL SERVE MY PURPOSE!

WHO'S CHASING WHO?

THE PLACE IS HAUNTED!



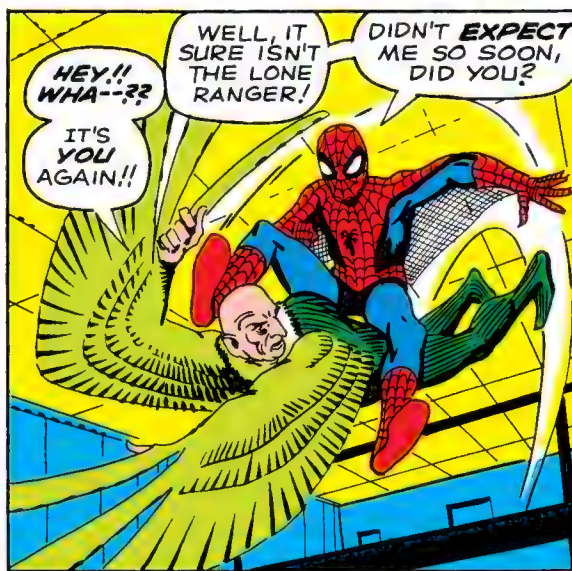
THIS IS MORE LIKE IT! I'M IN THE PRESS ROOM! I'VE ENOUGH FLYING SPACE AGAIN! I'LL DESTROY SPIDER-MAN FOREVER NOW, IF HE'S FOOL ENOUGH TO FOLLOW ME HERE!



I HAD A HUNCH THE VULTURE WOULD LAND DOWN HERE!

THE ODDS ARE ALL IN HIS FAVOR NOW... BUT THAT NEVER STOPPED ME BEFORE!

HE DOESN'T SEE ME YET... SO HERE GOES NOTHING!

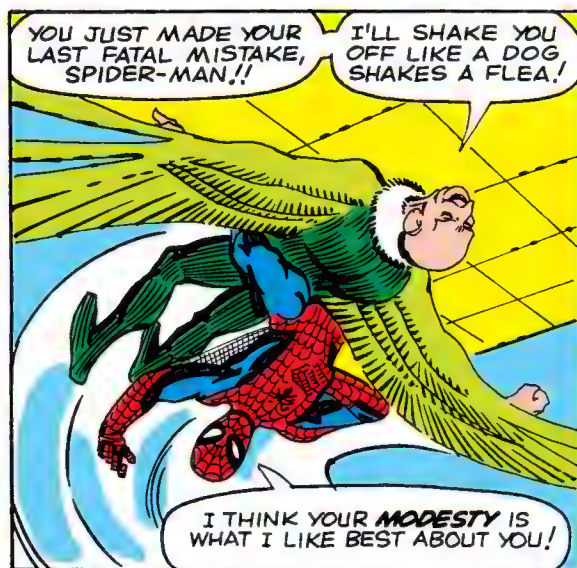


HEY!! WHA--??

WELL, IT SURE ISN'T THE LONE RANGER!

DIDN'T EXPECT ME SO SOON, DID YOU?

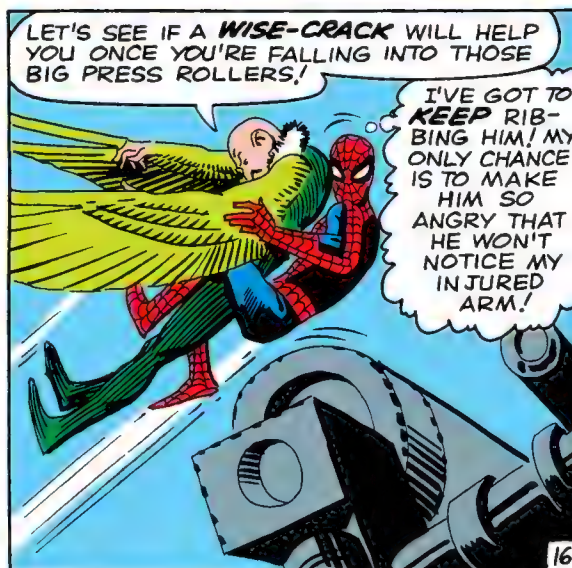
IT'S YOU AGAIN!!



YOU JUST MADE YOUR LAST FATAL MISTAKE, SPIDER-MAN!!

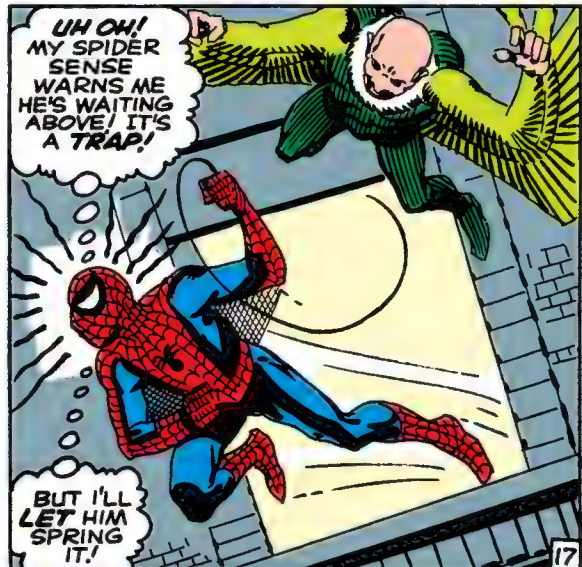
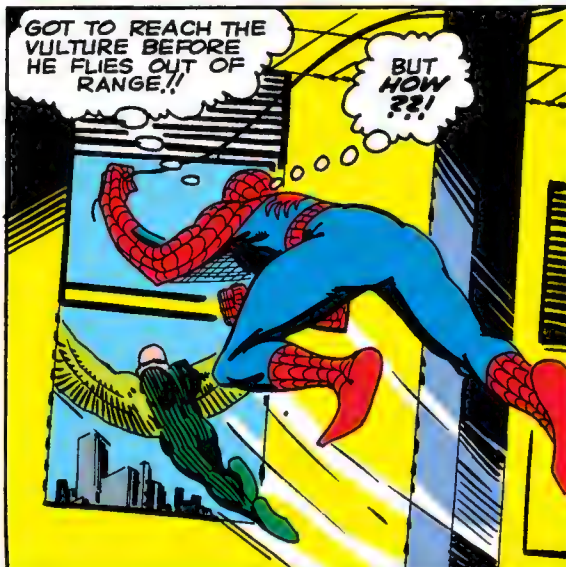
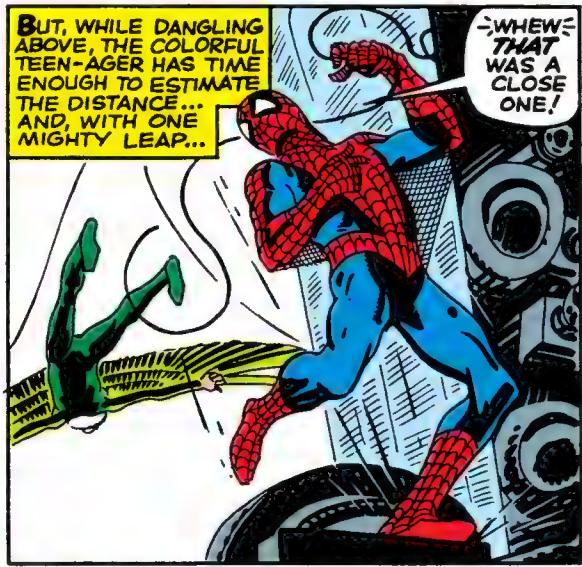
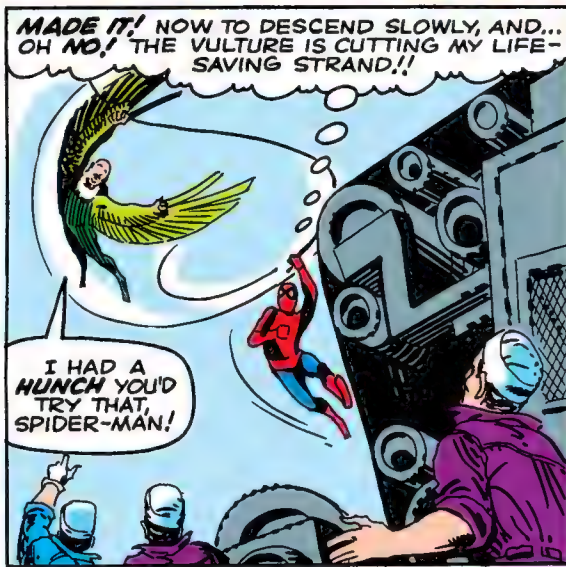
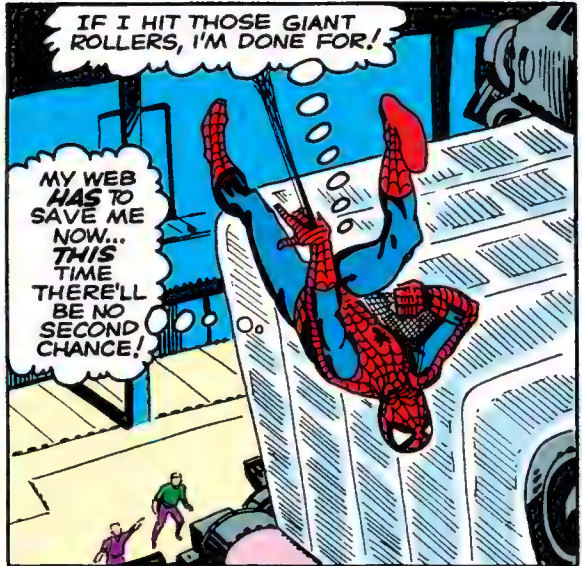
I'LL SHAKE YOU OFF LIKE A DOG, SHAKES A FLEA!

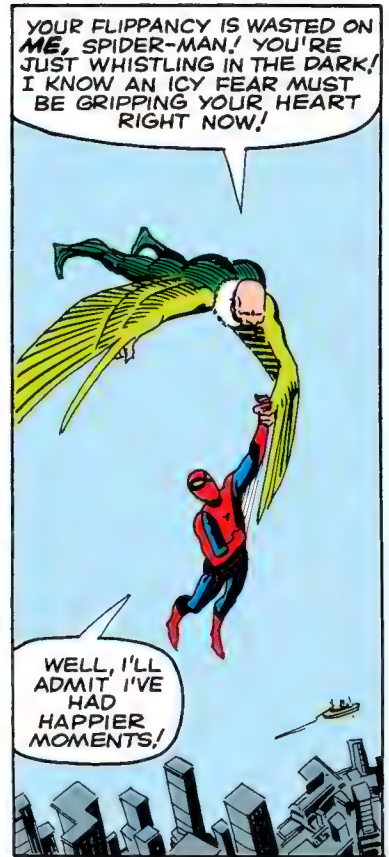
I THINK YOUR MODESTY IS WHAT I LIKE BEST ABOUT YOU!

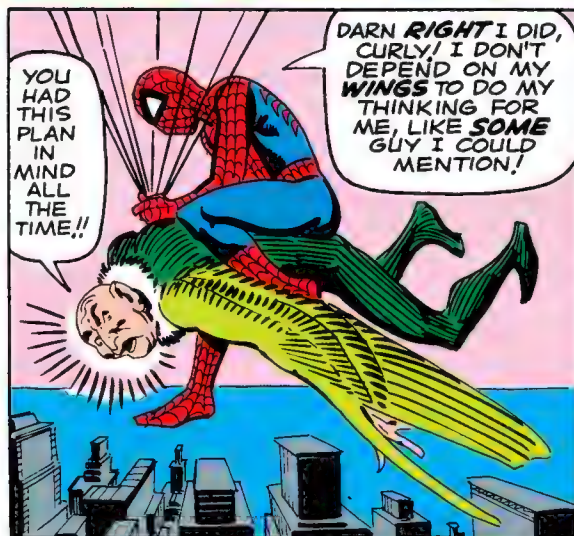
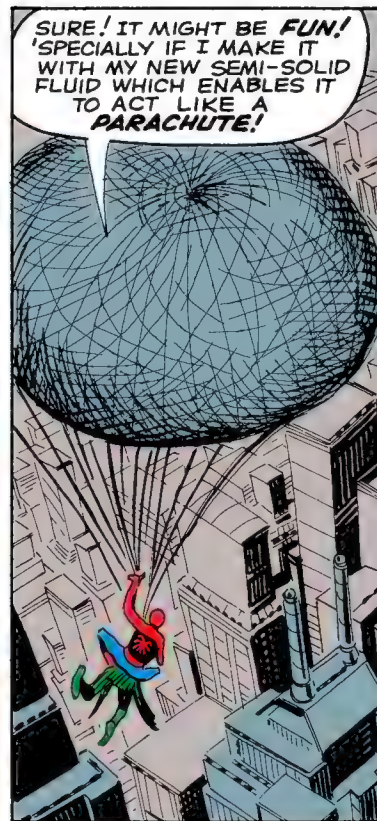
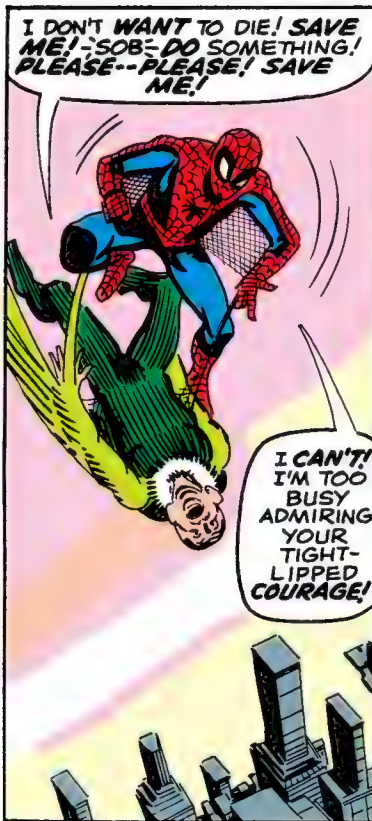


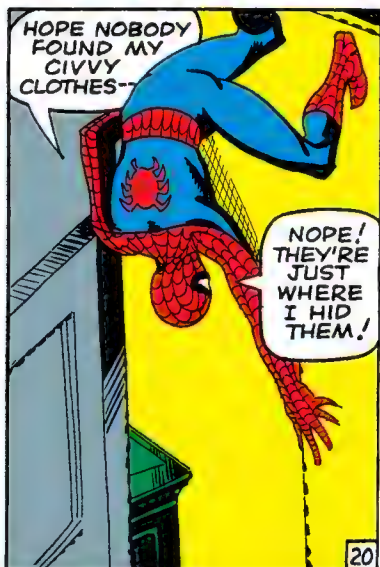
LET'S SEE IF A WISE-CRACK WILL HELP YOU ONCE YOU'RE FALLING INTO THOSE BIG PRESS ROLLERS!

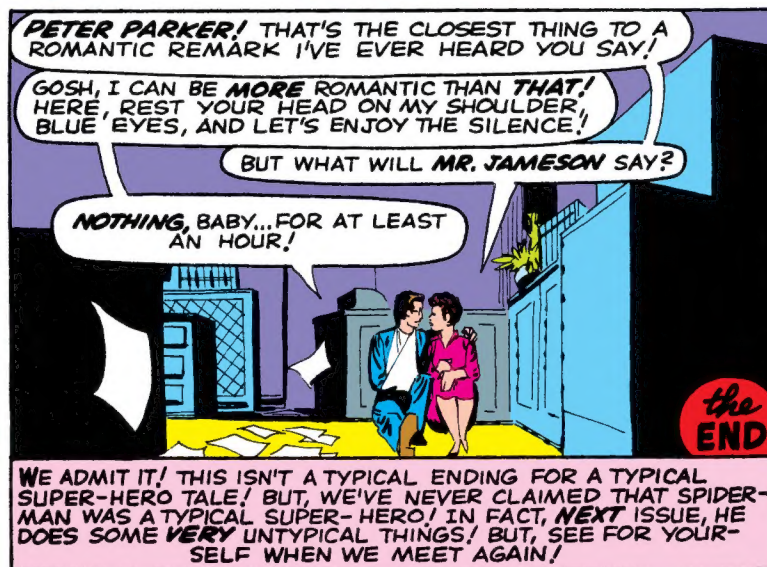
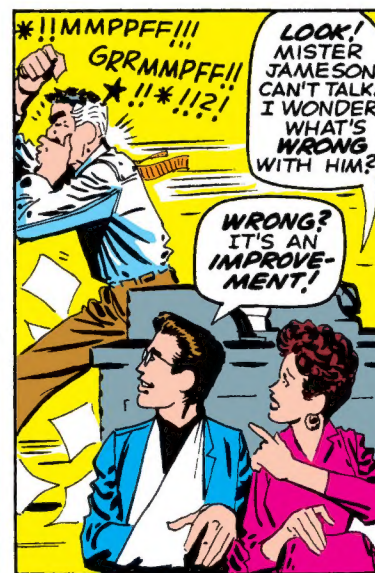
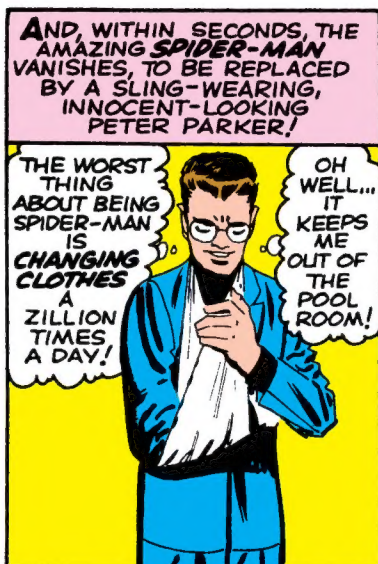
I'VE GOT TO KEEP RIB-BING HIM! MY ONLY CHANCE IS TO MAKE HIM SO ANGRY THAT HE WON'T NOTICE MY INJURED ARM!













SPIDER'S WEB

Please address
your letters to:
THE SPIDER'S WEB
Third Floor
655 Madison Ave.
New York 21, N. Y.

Dear Stan and Steve,

"Nothing Can Stop the Sandman" was more than a well-written, well-drawn story of a battle between a super-hero and a super-villain. It was, in my humble opinion, the most reasonable account ever written of a day in the life of a super-hero. His problems, his triumphs, and his thoughts were all covered thoroughly in your story. Although Peter Parker's bizarre costume makes him appear bigger than life (which after all is its purpose beside hiding his identity), this story carefully painted a picture of a teenager with super abilities wondering if they are really a gift. Other episodes like his problems with the torn mask, J. J. Jameson's hate for him, and his girl troubles all made for the best portrait of a super-hero's life ever written. I could hardly help feeling I actually knew Spider-Man personally. Of course, Sandman was an ingenious villain. His simple powers were just perfect and proved a match for Spider-Man. Continue Spider-Man in his present vein and he will run till, as you say, "Peter Parker picks a peck of pickled peppers."

Joe Finley
Route 4
Sparta, Tenn.

Didn't anyone ever tell you, Joe—if you can't say something NICE about a fella, don't say anything! But seriously, if we're half as good as you imply, then we're twice as pleased as you!

Dear Stan and Steve,

I think Peter Parker should have a girl friend who sticks up for him when he's being bullied; and I don't mean some chick who's homely, wears specs and a sack dress, with black-and-white saddle shoes, or is as science-minded as he is. I mean a doll with a good figure, get-up-and-go, who digs jazz and rock-and-roll. You follow me?

Sidney Wright
Worcester, Mass.

No, Sid, but we'd sure follow HER!

Dear Stan and Steve,

May I congratulate you (or should it be thank you) for the tremendous quality of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. Originally, (meaning AMAZING FANTASY #15) he was a run-of-the-mill deadbeat, typical of the baleful boredom which sometimes prevailed in your comics. The Ditko art, pitifully primitive, lacked imagination, and made one believe that Steve was a doting, senile old codger who you kept on your staff because you didn't have the heart to fire him. But no longer! The plots now ring with originality, and the villains are as vibrant as life. And Ditko—now I picture him as a lively, eager 25 year old! His SPIDER-MAN is one of the best heroes today. No longer does Steve have the same ol' faces in each story gazing toward the rest of an empty panel. He's helped most of all to bring the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN right up to the top of the MARVEL COMICS GROUP—some people now put him over the fabulous FANTASTIC FOUR (folks in fandom that is) and the brilliant SGT. FURY! And it's not the same old Stan Lee either—whose claims of "We're superior! We're different! We're the best! We're too great for words!" were trying to promote his own work (sort of like most of your competitors). I don't know if their stuff has deteriorated or whether you have improved that

much, but the competition now seems like echh! Each person in the plot(s) is a complete world, down to the bow tie and personality. Wow—now that I've cleared my head, I know what I should have said at the beginning—may I thank you for the tremendous quality of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

Paul Gambaccini
8 Elizabeth Drive
Westport, Conn.

We appreciate your praise, Paul, but feel we must pause for a serious word to you, and all of fandom. We don't feel it's fair for you to knock any other group of magazines while boosting ours. After all, it's just a matter of taste—and there are probably many fans who prefer our competitors' mags to ours. There are many fine talents producing well-written and well-drawn stories at other houses beside MARVEL. While we admit we try to create the greatest comics possible, we feel it isn't proper to comment about mags other than our own on these pages. Okay?

Dear Stan and Steve,

I just got issue #4 of the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, and it is the greatest of all the Spider-Man issues. Sandman is the best villain he has ever fought. I think the word "Amazing" should be left on the title of the comic, for I think it is a part of the title, and Spider-Man is amazing. I would like to see Spider-Man talking with the spiders like the Ant-Man does with ants, and the Wasp does with the wasps.

Larry Rothenberger
906 Jackson St.
Wausau, Wisconsin

And we suppose you'd like to see IRON MAN talking with pieces of IRON? Oh well, as usual, we'll wait for the comments from our fans out there in mag-land!

SPIDER SCRATCHINGS:

(Due to lack of space, we can't print these letters in their entirety, but we try to include as many interesting comments as we can.)

"You ought to have Spider-Man in the army or navy helping them."—Zane Smith, Carthage, Mo. . . "Your July issue of Spider-Man was so good that I had to write or explode."—Marshall Barroll, Chestertown, Md. . . "The F.F. will be sorry they turned down Spider-Man when he wanted to join up!"—Herbie Clayburn, Jr., N. Y. C., N. Y. . . "Dr. Octopus has just got to make a comeback."—Leonard Tirado, Brooklyn, N. Y. . . "Keep the public wary of Spider-Man, and keep him a loner!"—Danny De Vere, Haskell, N. J. . . "I think Spider-Man should have a super partner to help him out even if he doesn't need help."—Robert Dwyer, Marlboro, Mass. . . "We found a clubhouse for our Spider-Man Club, and it's full of spiders! Would you give us a good name for our clubhouse?"—Ricky Gil, Los Angeles, Cal. (Ed. note: How about the SPIDER-MANsion?) . . . "Until I ran across your Spider-Man I would not even go near a comic for fear of somebody ribbing me, but this book opens up an entirely new field in comic history."—Mike Roese, Fort Wayne, Ind. . . "I'd like to see Spider-Man and the Torch come together again."—Michael Bissonnette, Chicopee Falls, Mass.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED...

Dear Stan and Steve,

SPIDER-MAN is improving as I knew he would have to after seeing how the F.F. improved. Thanks for making it monthly. I like the way you answer the letters — you don't beat around the bush, but get straight to the point. What's even more important, you speak our language and remember to say "thanks" which is something rarely done in the letters section of a comic.

Christine Cassello
8017 S. Muskegon
Chicago 17, Ill.

Yep, that's ONE thing you can say about us, Chris — our mags may be riddled with errors, our fans may be deserting us in droves, Stan and Steve may be running out of ideas, but one thing is for sure — we're polite! Nice of you to notice, gal — thanks.

Dear Stan and Steve,

I read the story about Dr. Octopus in SPIDER-MAN and it was great. Now in the part where Spider-Man says, "It's almost too easy. I've run out of enemies who can give me any real opposition." . . . that certainly isn't true. Every issue gives him a very powerful foe to fight. (Except for that, the whole thing was perfect.) When Spider-Man sees Dr. Octopus, the arms are coming out of his suit. Did the arms become a part of him, or were they just covered up? I liked the appearance of the Human Torch. No matter what anybody else says about it, he spoke the greatest words I have ever heard. I think Spider-Man is a great, great hero, and I'd like to see him printed for another trillion years.

Franz Wright
132 Douglass St.
San Francisco 14, Cal.

So would WE, Franz, but let's be practical . . . we might have to settle for just a million or two! About Doc Ock's arms, to all intents and purposes they ARE part of him now.

Dear Stan and Steve,

It is my opinion that SPIDER-MAN #2 was the finest all-around comic magazine I've read in the past three or four years. For overall excellence it simply couldn't be matched. The artwork was truly superb, the finest Ditko art I've seen anywhere. The gothic settings (perhaps I should say semi-gothic) were ideally suited, since Spider-Man himself is something of a weird story hero, and should feel right at home in such a background. The stories were also extremely good, on all counts. #2 was a great surprise to me after reading the sorry mess you had created in #1, and I was all set to wave flags and blare out the news with brass bands when issue #3 hit the stands. However, I was disappointed. Maybe you people just work in short tremendous creative spurts or something, but I found #3 a great letdown. The story itself was good, better than most comic stories these days, but the art . . . Ditko plunged from one extreme to another. The art in #3 looked as though he had done it with a rat's tail, blindfolded perhaps. The misshapen figures and the appalling lack of anything resembling passable detail leads me to believe he must have done the whole comic in a mad rush. I certainly hope you will bring Spider-Man back up to the pinnacle of excellence you established for him with issue #2. He's such a unique and truly great character, he deserves only your best attentions.

Bob Jennings
3819 Chambers Drive
Nashville 11, Tenn.

Admit it, Bob — how much did THE HUMAN TORCH pay you to write that letter? You know we don't draw with rats' tails — they're too expensive! We use our fingernails, like everyone else!



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS SECTION:

Here it is, the section we like best! A place for us to get together, relax a while, and chew the fat about comic mags. First of all, let's start with an interesting announcement about one of SPIDER-MAN's ex-villains...

- Remember the SANDMAN? Well, he made such a hit in SPIDERMAN #4 that we brought him back in another Marvel mag! And so, you'll find ol' Sandy in STRANGE TALES #115, fighting the HUMAN TORCH! It should be fun to see how Torch fares against one of Pete Parker's most dangerous waltzing partners! STRANGE TALES #15 is on sale now — we think!
- Earth-shaking bulletin #2: Ask us who the guest star is in FANTASTIC FOUR #21! Go on, ASK us! Well, it's SGT. FURY! And if you're wondering how we managed to fit HIM into a story involving a different kind of super-villain with a totally different kind of super-power, there's one way to find out — and you know what THAT is!
- We've got so much to talk about, we don't know where to begin! It looks as though our two new mags, X-MEN and THE AVENGERS are destined to be runaway best-sellers! And there's been a lot of talk about DR. STRANGE (In STRANGE TALES, of course). Those that don't like him really HATE the poor guy — and those who like him are WILD about him! Nobody's neutral! We'll give you the result of the pro-and-con count in a few issues. Meantime, if you haven't seen him yet, he's done by Stan and Steve — 'nuff said!
- By the way, don't delay in letting us know how you like the big changes in TALES to ASTONISH and TALES OF SUSPENSE! Ant-Man, as you know, has become GIANT-MAN. And IRON MAN — well, you'll have to SEE what we've done to him! Hope you like it! (That's probably the most unnecessary phrase ever written! If you DON'T like the mags we edit for you, we'll shoot ourselves!)
- Here's our most difficult announcement: We want to ask your permission to discontinue this letters section! Now hold on, before you hit the ceiling! We KNOW you enjoy these two pages! WE enjoy 'em, too! But, they take HOURS to put together — to select the letters, write the copy, etc., and we'd rather spend that time producing new strips for you. We feel it would be best to have only one clearing house for all Marvel Mail, and that would be the FANTASTIC FOUR Mag. So, how about it? Suppose all the mail for all the Marvel Mags is sent to FF? That'll give SPIDER-MAN two extra pages for longer stories, features, or what-have-you! We'll do nothing till we hear from you, so let us know. But, as a special favor, we hope you'll tell us you don't mind.
- Okay, time to close shop for now. So let's put away our little webs till next ish, when we'll bring you another book-length epic which all you armchair critics can tear apart to your heart's content! Till then, keep well, keep happy, and keep away from radioactive spiders!

ÜBERSOLDIER



DCP
DIGITAL